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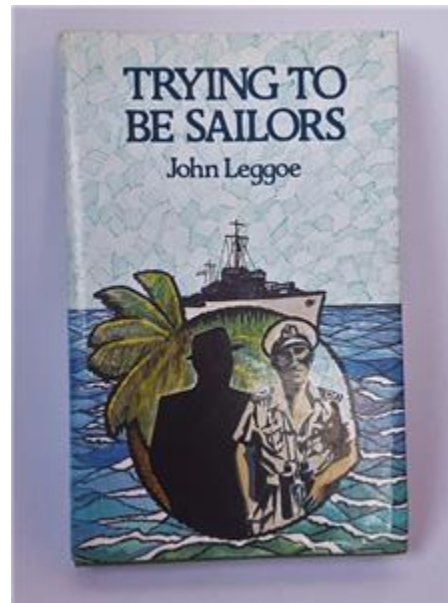
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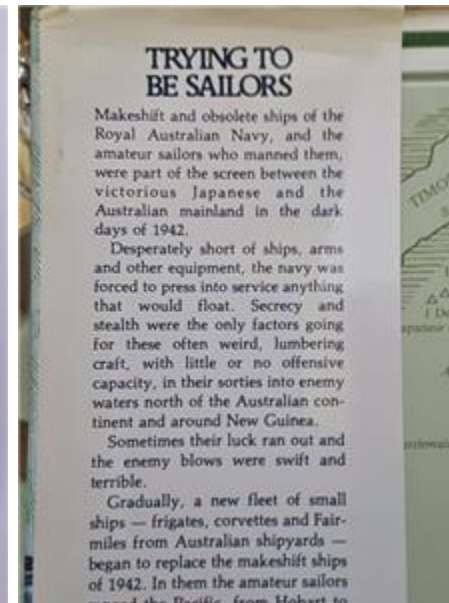
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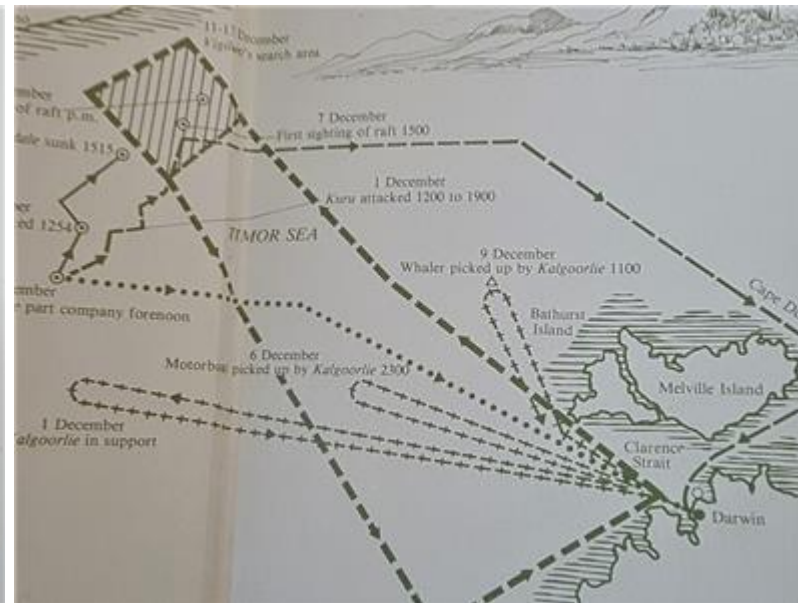


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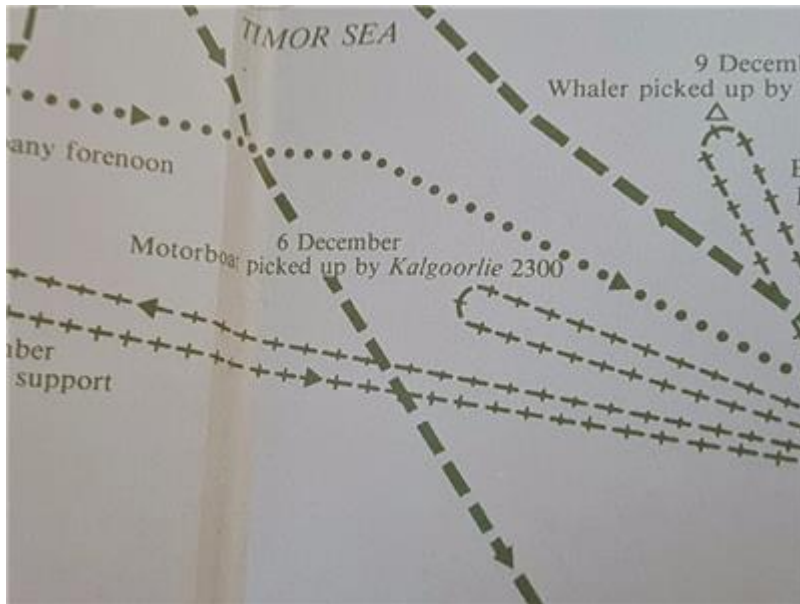
ships — frigates, corvettes and Fairmiles from Australian shipyards — began to replace the makeshift ships of 1942. In them the amateur sailors ranged the Pacific, from Hobart to Tokyo, escorting convoys, hunting submarines, landing and evacuating troops, carrying out secret missions, bombarding Japanese positions and sweeping mines.

From all walks of life, these sailors served in all capacities. Their training was sketchy and they learnt the hard way — in operations at sea. What they lacked in training, though, they made up for in resource and initiative and their methods were often original. Because of the special nature of their service, a unique relationship developed among them, still cherished today.

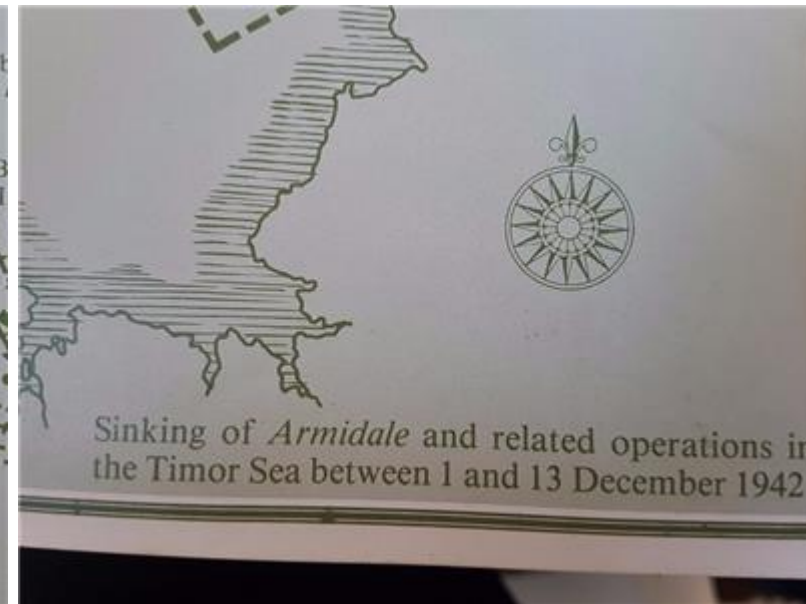
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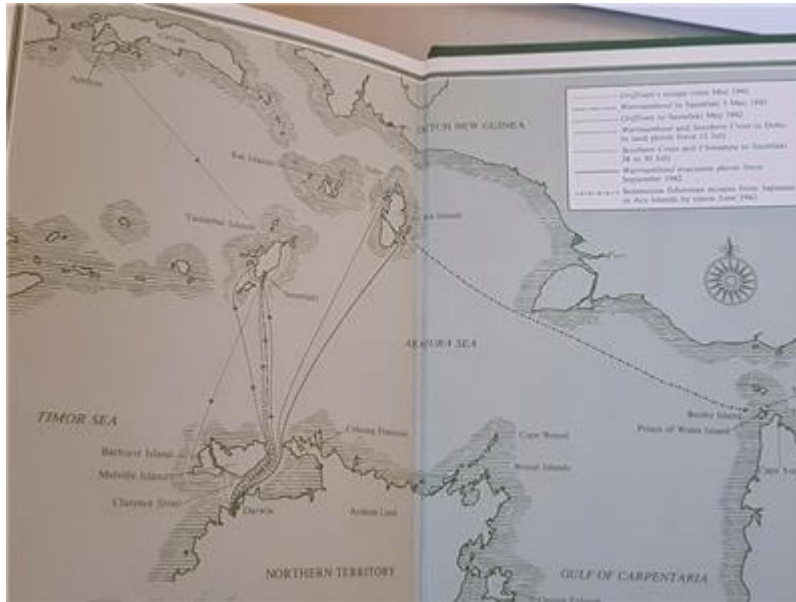
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magnificently built and proportioned and moved with the lithe natural grace of a ballet dancer. They carried several short fishing lines and set about getting us some fish with a technique that was new to me. Baiting the hook with some shellfish, they cast the line into shallow water only a few feet from the rocks and then agitated the water with their hands. This had the effect of attracting the fish which took the bait and paid for their curiosity.

Stoker Williams's profession in civil life was cooking, so now that our food supplies were relatively plentiful we invited him to demonstrate his culinary art. He had no utensils, but that was overcome by burning the rubber lining out of my tin hat which then made a satisfactory basin and stewpan. Williams's creations with the limited resources available to him were quite remarkable and greatly appreciated by Levett in particular. Later the same tin hat was used to bathe feet cut by the sharp shells on the beach.

At night around the camp fire the lads were in high spirits. Some, cleaned of their fuel oil and looking quite debonair, joined with the Wessel Island boys in a fireside dance. Durrington, Brun, Murray and White soon picked up the graceful steps the natives taught

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Survivors of Patricia Cam at Kahlin Military Hospital, Darwin. From left, standing: OD D. Murray, Sub-Lieut. J. Leggoe, Cook J. R. Hawkins, Lieut. A. C. Meldrum, PO H. G. Chalender, AB A. E. White, ERA J. D. McKimmie; front row: Stoker A. L. Bennett, AB G. Durrington, Telegraphist R. L. Stevens, Seaman A. R. Tanner. AB M. Levett was too ill to be photographed.

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Description

This is a group of three Australian WWII medals issued to Stoker G. W. Williams W 1897. It comprises 1939-45 Star, 1939-45 Australia Service Medal and 1938-1945 British War Medal.

George Williams served between 25th November 1940 until 22nd May 1946.

There is a Royal Australian Navy National Archive File available. The file advises:

WILLIAMS GEORGE WILLIAM
Service Number - W1897
Date of birth - 30 Oct 1922
Place of birth - MELBOURNE VIC
Place of enlistment - WILLIAMSTOWN
Next of Kin - BETTY

Here is the files link:

<http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au/SearchNRetrieve/Interface/DetailsReports/ItemDetail.aspx?Barcode=4522812&isAv=N>

The medal trio comes with 3 original photos of George Williams and a copy of "Trying To Be Sailors" by John Leggoe. The book tells the story of a bunch of amateur sailors being thrown in at the deep end and blundering around the Timor Sea,

learning as they go - a good read! It has 2 references to Stoker Williams.

George Williams served in the Timor Sea of the South Pacific Theatre on board RMAS Patricia Cam; a wooden hulled tuna boat that was converted to a storage cum mine laying vessel based in Darwin. HMAS Patricia Cam was sunk during an action on 21st January 1943 having been bombed by "Floatplane Joe". There is a thrilling personal account in John Leggoe's book mentioning George Williams and a group photo of the doomed vessel's survivors. The family advise that George was forced to abandon ship on no less than three occasions!

A really great piece of Australian WWII Naval history.

The medal's condition: The 1939-47 Star is missing its suspender ring; the WWII service medals are in VF to EF condition. Each award is officially impressed stamped.

The lot comes with a ribbon bar for a 1939-45 Star and Pacific Star. There is no Pacific Star included though no doubt Stoker was entitled to this campaign star.

The book and ephemera are in very good condition. Page 87 has Stoker Williams's name underlined. The survivor's photo appears on page 91.

Overall weight: 625gm

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Payment Terms

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1939-1945

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Main Content: A close-up photograph of a metal surface with the embossed text "W. 1897. G. W." visible.

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Main image: A close-up photograph of a metal rim or edge of a large, circular object, possibly a satellite dish or a large wheel. The name "S.M. WILLIAMS" is engraved in capital letters along the inner curve of the rim. Below the rim, a textured, metallic surface is visible, and a thin rod or wire extends across it.

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